GNOSALL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1906.

As usual in presenting my annual report I give below a table showing the birth and death rates for the year, as compared with the averages of the ten preceding years for the district.

Deaths per 1,000 of population:—1906, 11.4; Average of ten preceding years, 12.1.

Births per 1,000 of population:—1906, 24; Average of ten preceding years, 24.9.

Deaths from Zymotic Diseases per 1,000 of population:—1906, 1.2; Average of ten preceding years, 0.9.

Deaths of infants under a year per 1,000 births registered:—1906, 12.1; Average of ten preceding years, .96

From this table it will be seen that the death rate at all ages is below the average, and a further reference to Table I. will show that with the exception of 1904, this is the lowest death rate on record for the past 10 years.

The deaths from zymotic diseases, however, shew a slight increase as also does the infantile death rate. The increase in the former, however, accounts in same measure for that in the latter as four of the deaths from zymotic disease were due to diarrhœa in infants under one year and one was that of an infant under one year attributable to whooping cough.

Beyond that, Table V. will show that the infantile death rate is practically accounted for by cases of premature birth and inflammatory diseases of the lungs.

The birth rate is an average one for the district.

In Table IV. will be found the number of deaths in each separate parish, and also the causes of and ages at death.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—It is gratifying to be able to report that these have been almost entirely absent from the district throughout the whole of the year, only two cases of Erysipelas and one of Puerperal Fever having been reported.

Whooping Cough, however, has been somewhat prevalent again this year, and was, as already stated, the primary cause of death in an infant under one year of age. In some parts of the district too, the children suffered considerably from Mumps, and this led on October 16th, to the closing of Gnosall School for 3 weeks. I am unable to say, however, that this was of much use in lessening the spread of infection, as before this was done a large percentage of the children were already infected, and, of course, took the the infection home to other members of their families It, however, served the purpose of giving time for the infected ones to recover, and on re-opening the Schools, so far as I could gather, only a few more isolated cases occurred.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—Though I am pleased to be able to say that a reference to former reports shews me that this disease is not prevalent in this district, I am afraid that this must be looked upon as owing largely to good fortune, as I find that the district as a whole is badly supplied with midwifery nurses, and so far the Midwifery Act of 1902 has only been of benefit by reducing the number of incompetent midwives in actual practice. Their place, as yet however, has not been filled up by any more competent, and I take this opportunity of pointing out that one of the greatest boons that could be conferred on this district would be the supply of a sufficient number of trained nurses to take up this work as at present it is mostly carried on by nurses whose sole claim to being on the register is not that they have received instructive hospital teaching, but merely that they were able to claim registration from having already done this work for a period of at least twelve months; and from personal observation I am able to say that this does not mean efficiency. I understand that a County Nursing Association is in process of formation to take up this work, and I would recommend that it should be applied to for help in this matter.

WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE. — Some further progress has been made with the preliminary steps for the schemes for the village of Gnosall.

THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.—This district is entirely agricultural, and so does not provide material for a report under this Act, as none of the industries mentioned in the list received from the Secretary of State are carried on in the district. The bakehouses are in a satisfactory condition. The following is an account of the Sanitary work for the year 1906, as furnished by the Sanitary Inspector, and it will be seen from it that this department is receiving much greater attention than in former years.

	Inspections made.	Defects found.	Informal Notices.	Formal by Authority.	Nuisances abated by Inspector.	After Notice by Authority.
Houses and Schools:						
Foul Conditions	3	3	3	0	3	0
Structural Defects	1	1	1	1	0	1
Overcrowding	3	3	3	1	2	1
Dairies and Milkshops:						
Cowsheds	41	7	7	0	7	0
Slaughterhouses	19	1	1	0	1	0
Canal Boats	33	4	0	4	0	4
Ashpits and Privies	16	8	8	2	6	0
Deposits of Refuse	8	4	2	2	2	2
Water Closets	1	1	1	0	1	0
House Drainage:						
Defective Traps	19	8	4	4	4	4
Other Faults	102	17	17	5	12	5
Water Supply	19	4	4	0	4	0
Hipstics	12	2	2	1	1	1
Animals improperly kept	1	0	0	0	0	0
Other Nuisances	8	8	7	1	7	1

Samples of water taken for analysis, 3; condemned, none. Precautions against infectious disease: none required. I attach to this report the usual tabular statements of sickness and mortality for the year, and

I remain, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

R. S. STEELE, M.B., M.O.H.

Gnosall, February 13th, 1907.

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1906, AND AVERAGE FOR PREVIOUS TEN YEARS.

Population estimated to the middle of the year: 1906, 4,700; Average for previous ten years, 4,845.

Births.—1906: 115; Average for previous ten years, 121. Rate: 1906, 24.4; Average for previous ten years, 24,9.

Total Deaths Registered in the District.—Under One Year of Age: 1906, 14; Average for previous ten years, 11. Rate per 1,000 births registered: 1906, 121; Average for previous ten years, 96. At all Ages: 1906, 54; Average for previous ten years, 64. Rate: 1906, 11.4; Average for previous ten years, 12.1.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 26,083. Total population at all ages, 4,707. Number of inhabited houses, 1,015. Average number of persons per house, 4.1 (taken at Census of 1901).

VITAL STATISTICS OF SEPARATE LOCALITIES IN 1906, AND AVERAGE FOR PREVIOUS TEN YEARS.

Gnosall.—1906: Population estimated to middle of the year, 2,050; Births registered, 39; Deaths at all ages, 28; Deaths under One Year,6. Average for previous ten years: Population estimated to the middle of each year, 2,569; Births registered, 52; Deaths at all ages,28; Deaths under One year, 5

Adbaston.—1906: Population estimated to middle of the year, 530; Births registered, 15; Deaths at all ages, 5; Deaths under One year, 1. Average for previous ten years: Population estimated to middle of each year, 545; Births registered, 17; Deaths at all ages, 9; Deaths under One yead, 2.

High Offley. — 1906: Population estimated to middle of the year, 620; Births registered, 18; Deaths at all ages, 6, Deaths under One year, 4. Average for previous ten years: Population estimated to middle of each year, 680; Births registered, 17; Deaths at all ages, 9; Deaths under One year, 2.

Norbury.—1906: Population estimated to middle of the year, 383; Births registered, 9; Deaths at all ages, 7; Deaths under One year, 1. Average for previous ten years, 375; Births registered, 9; Deaths at all ages, 9; Deaths under One year, 2.

Forton.—1906: Population estimated to middle of the year, 520; Births registered, 12; Deaths at all ages, 6; Deaths under One year, 2. Average for previous ten years: Population estimated to middle of each year, 540; Births registered, 10; Deaths at all ages, 3; Deaths under One year, 0.

Church Eaton.—1906: Population estimated to middle of the year, 597; Births registered, 22; Deaths at all ages, 2; Deaths under One year, 0. Average for previous ten years: Population estimated to middle of each year, 604; Births registered, 14; Deaths at all ages, 6; Deaths under One year, 1.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1906.—Erysipelas: At all ages, 2; 65 and upwards, 2. Puerperal fever: At all ages, 1; 25 to 65, 1. Total Cases notified in each Locality: Abaston: Erysipelas, 1; High Offley, Erysipelas, 1; Church Eaton: Puerperal fever, 1.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING YEAR 1906.—At all ages: Whooping cough, 1; epidemic influenza, 1; diarrhœa, 4; erysipelas, 1; phthisis, 1; other tubercular diseases, 1; cancer (malignant disease), 4; bronchitis, 1; pneumonia, 8; other diseases of respiratory organs, 1; alcoholism (cirrhosis of liver), 2; premature birth, 4; heart disease, 7; all other causes, 18; total, 54.

Deaths at all Ages of Residents belonging to Localities.—Gnosall, 28; Adbaston, 5; High Offley, 7; Norbury, 6; Forton, 6; Church Eaton, 2.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1906.—Total Deaths under One Year:—All Causes: Certified, 13; Uncertified, 1. Whooping Cough, 1; enteritis, 4; premature birth, 4; convulsions, 1; pneumonia, 3; other causes, 1. total, 14. Births in the year: Legitimate, 108; illegitimate, 7. Deaths in the year: Legitimate infants, 13; illegitimate infants, 1. Deaths from all causes at all ages: 54. Population, estimated to middle of 1906, 4,700.